II.—CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE UNDER RULE 40 OF THE ASSEMBLY RULES *RE* OUTBREAK OF SMALLPOX IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member, Sri T. T. Daniel will now call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Health and Revenue to a matter of urgent public importance of which I have received notice.

SRI T. T. DANIEL : Sir, recently there was an outbreak of smallpox in the Kanyakumari district. At first it occurred in the Nagercoil town. In a place called Raman Puthur, more than 40 or 50 persons died. Instances of death are also reported to have occurred in places like Pudukudiyiruppu, Krishnan Koil, Vadacheri and Kurucheoli which are within the Nagerkoil municipal town limits. Afterwards, the disease began to spread into the interior villages and at Thiruvithancode nearly 40 persons are reported to have died. At a place called Kulasegaram, the number of deaths are still higher. In many other places in the various taluks in the district, there are also casualties. In this connection, I would bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that at the beginning, there was no adequate supply of vaccine in the municipality and because of the scarcity of vaccine, vaccinators could not begin inoculation in time and further preventive measures were also not properly taken. The people who were attacked by this disease were not put in segregation camps. At present the disease is there and it is not completely brought under control and I wish that our Government will at least in future see that adequate supply of vaccine is in the municipality so that whenever any epidemic arises, vaccinators can start their function to vaccinate people immediately and also to see that adequate preventive measures such as segregation of people who receive the attack may be taken.

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, sporadic infection of smallpox was prevalent in the Nagercoil Municipality upto 4th January 1958. There were 19 attacks and 11 deaths in the municipality during the period from 16th November 1957 to 4th January 1958. An increase in the incidence was recorded during the subsequent two weeks resulting in 45 attacks and 14 deaths. The District Health Officer, Tirunelveli, who is in charge of the Kanyakumari district inspected the municipality and issued necessary instructions to tighten up the control measures. Arrangements for the proper isolation of smallpox cases in the isolation ward of the Government Hospital were also made. The Assistant District Health Officer, Tirunelveli, was also put in charge of the smallpox work in the municipality. In addition to the four vaccinators of the municipality appointment of six more vaccinators by the municipal council and deputation of three vaccinators by the District Health Officer were done. One of the Assistant Directors of Public Health inspected the municipality and formulated a practical plan of organisation and operation for the control and prevention of smallpox. So far,

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4,939 primary vaccinations and 35,969 revaccinations have been done in the municipality and the work is still progressing. On account of the intensive measures taken the situation is under control now as no reports of cases have been received from the Nagercoil Municipality during the weeks ended 1st February 1958 and 8th February 1958.

As regards the smallpox situation in the other areas of the district only moderate infection has been noticed particularly in Thiruvithancode and Kulasekaram villages. There were 59 attacks and 16 deaths in the rural areas of the district during the period from 24th November 1957 to 1st February 1958, not 48 deaths as represented by the hon. Member. The District Health Officer visited the villages and contacted the public and persuaded them to get vaccinated. He has deputed three Health Assistants including one Lady Health Assistant for vaccination among the Muslims of the village. During the week ending 1st February 1958 there has been a good progress of vaccination work and the smallpox situation is rapidly improving. Intensive vaccination by house-to-house visits is being conducted. Up to the week ended 1st February 1958, 556 primary vaccinations and 8,961 revaccinations have been done. The District Health Officer is now camping at Nagercoil. He will visit the affected places and supervise control measures in and around Nagercoil. The situation is now well under control.

III.—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR 1958–59.—contd.

MR. SPEAKER : We shall now continue the General Discussion on the Budget. I have already with me the names of 25 hon. Members wishing to speak today and many more may be coming. To be on the safe side, therefore, I am fixing a time-limit of 10 minutes for each hon. Member.

SRI J. MATHA GOWDER : கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, கனம் நிதி அமைச்சர் அவர்களால் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் 1958–59-வது ஆண்டு நிதி நிலை அறிக்கையை நான் மனமார வரவேற்கிறேன். சென்ற ஆண்டை விட இந்த ஆண்டு நல்லதொரு அறிக்கை இந்த சபையின் முன் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. தான்யத்தைப் பொறுத்தவரையில் நம் மாகாணம் இதர மாகாணங்களை விட அதிகமான விளைச்சல் விளைந்திருக்கிறது என்பதை அவருடைய பட்ஜெட் உரையில் காண்பித்திருக்கிறார்கள். அதை நாம் மட்டும் சொல்லவில்லை. எதிர் கட்சியில் அமர்ந்திருக்கக் கூடிய அன்பர்களும் சொன்னார்கள், சென்ற ஆண்டில் படுத்துக் கொண்டிருந்தவள் இந்த ஆண்டு எழுந்து உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிறாள் என்று. அவர்கள் அப்படி ஒரு உண்மையை ஒரு வருடத்தில் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள். அதற்கு நான் எனது மனமார்ந்த வந்தனத்தை தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன். இந்த ஆண்டு உட்கார்ந்து இருந்தால் அடுத்த ஆண்டு ஒருக்கால் எழுந்து ஓடும் அளவிற்கு வந்துவிடும் என்ற நிலையை அவர்கள் நன்கு புரிந்து கொள்ளவேண்டும். அவர்கள் எப்பொழுதும் குறுகிய மனப்பான்மையோடு இருப்பது தவிர அந்த மனப்பான்மையில்தான், அந்த வழியில்தான் அவர்கள் மக்களை இழுத்துச் செல்லப் பார்க்கிறார்கள்.